

## PRESS RELEASE

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The United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa is pleased to announce that the District Court has selected Kelly K.E. Mahoney of Boone, Iowa, for the position of United States Magistrate Judge. She will assume office January 1, 2017 at the courthouse located in Sioux City, Iowa.

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. Section 631 and the Regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States Establishing Standards and Procedures for the Appointment and Reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges, the District Court published a public notice and appointed a Merit Selection Panel to assess the qualifications of applicants for the position. The Merit Selection Panel considered each applicant's character, judgment, legal ability, temperament and commitment to equal justice under the law and, after conducting interviews, forwarded to the District Court the names of the five applicants that it decided were the most qualified. After assessing the qualifications of each of the five applicants and conducting interviews, the District Court judges selected Ms. Mahoney.

Attorney Greg Lederer of Cedar Rapids chaired the Merit Selection Panel. Other members of the Panel were Henry J. Bevel, III, attorney from Waterloo; Stuart Cochrane, attorney from Fort Dodge; Peter E. Deegan, Jr., attorney from Cedar Rapids; Jay Denne, attorney from Sioux City; Priscilla Forsyth, attorney from Sioux City; Frances M. Haas, attorney from Cedar Rapids; Jill Johnston, attorney from Cedar Rapids; Mohummed Sadden, attorney from Sioux City; Kevin Visser, attorney from Cedar Rapids; Stephan Avery, community member from Sioux City; Elizabeth Kutter, community member from Cedar Rapids; Dale Todd, community member from Cedar Rapids; and Alex Watters, community member from Sioux City.

Ms. Mahoney was born in 1975 in Anthony, Kansas. She graduated with honors from Kansas State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Women's Studies. She was a member of Phi Kappa Theta History Honorary and the Golden Key National Honor Society at Kansas State University. She attended Washburn University School of Law, graduating cum laude with a J.D. degree in 2002. While working on her J.D. degree she also took classes toward a Masters of Criminal Justice degree. Ms. Mahoney was a Staff Writer and Articles Editor for the Washburn Law Journal.

For the past twelve years, Ms. Mahoney has practiced law in the federal courts as a Special Assistant United States Attorney; as a panel attorney under the Criminal Justice Act representing indigent defendants; and as an Assistant United States Attorney. Through this work she has handled a variety of criminal matters. She received numerous awards for her work from law enforcement and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa. Ms. Mahoney served as an Assistant District Attorney in the 18th Judicial District in Wichita, Kansas from 2002 - 2003. She was in the general practice of law from 2006 - 2008 with the Boone, Iowa firm of Jordan & Mahoney Law Firm, P.C., where she handled both civil and criminal matters.

Ms. Mahoney has served as a volunteer for the Boone County YMCA Swim Team, the Boone Area Soccer Club and the Boone Community School District. She has volunteered her time for the junior high and high school mock trial programs and has been a volunteer at the Battered Women's Task Force and Manhattan Crisis Center in Kansas. Ms. Mahoney has been active with the alumni association at Kansas State and has served on the Board of Governors for Washburn University School of Law. She has prior service as a Board Member for the Boone County Hospital Foundation, Boone's Future and Child Care Junction. Other memberships of note include the Chickasaw Nation; the Iowa Bar Association; the Kansas Bar Association; the Boone County Bar Association; the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys; the Polk County Women Attorneys and Blackstone Inn of Court.

The office of magistrate judge was established by the Federal Magistrates Act of 1968, enacted by Congress to create a new federal judicial officer who would conduct a wide range of judicial proceedings to expedite the disposition of the civil and criminal caseloads of the United States district courts. The authority that a magistrate judge exercises is the jurisdiction of the district court itself, delegated to the magistrate judge by the district judges of the court under governing statutory authority and local rules of court.